**Length of National Highways in Gujarat**

1490. SHRI BANGARU LAXMAN: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) the total length of National Highways declared in Gujarat during the Seventh and Eighth Five Year Plan period separately;

(b) the total length of National Highways proposed to be declared during the Ninth Five Year Plan period; and

(c) the construction work taken during the current year and proposed for the next year in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) Nil.

(b) Declaration of New National Highways would depend on the outlay of the 9th Plan which is yet to be finalised. However, a length of 371 kms. has since been added to the National Highway network in Gujarat during the year 1997-98.

(c) The Demand of Grants for 1998-99 is yet to be passed by the Parliament, after which details can be worked out.

**Construction of Jammu-Srinagar National Highway**

1491. SHRI SHARIEF-UD-DIN SHARIQ: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposal is under consideration of the Central Government regarding construction of National Highway from Jammu and Srinagar; and

(b) if so, the time by-which it would be able to seek the clearance from the Central Government and the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) No, Sir. The road from Jammu to Srinagar in the state of Jammu and Kashmir is already a National Highway (NH-1A).

(b) Does not arise.

**Construction of Highways on BOT Basis**

1492. SHRI PARAG CHALIHA: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering some proposals to construct National Highways on the concept of Build Operate and Transfer (BOT);

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the State of Assam is covered under this scheme; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) Proposals for the construction by passes, bridges, road over bridges and four laning of existing two lane sections of National Highway can be taken up on Build Operate and Transfer (BOT) concept.

(b) Some eleven projects totalling Rs. 580 crores stand awarded on BOT basis;

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. However, no such proposal has been received from the Government of Assam so far.

**Construction of Bridges on Brahmaputra**

1493. SHRI PARAG CHALIHA: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are contemplating construction of more bridges on the Brahmaputra; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) and (b) There is a proposal to construct Rail-cum-road bridge over Brahmaputra river at Bogibeel near Dibrugarh at a cost of Rs. 942.00 crores (share of this Ministry is about Rs. 395.00 crores). The Railways are the nodal agency for the same.